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Message Text

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15
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-01

OMB-01 /074 W
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O 090820Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 969
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3196

PASS UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, IR
SUBJ: IRANIAN LEND LEASE DEBT

REF: STATE 77280 AND PREVIOUS

1. WE BELIEVE THAT ANSARY WILL PROBABLY BY NOW HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY MFA THAT THE GOI HAS PROPOSED IN NOTE TO EMBASSY THAT THERE BE CONSTITUTED SEPARATE WORKING TEAMS TO CONSIDER OUR LEND LEASE AND SURPLUS PROPERTY DEBT ON THE ONE HAND AND IRANIAN COUNTERCLAIMS ON THE OTHER. (SEE TEHRAN 0730.) WHEN UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON RAISES MATTER OF US CLAIMS WITH ANSARY, WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT LATTER WOULD REVERT TO EARLIER GOI POSITION ON THE MATTER OF TWO SEPARATE WORKING TEAMS. WHILE EMBASSY TOO BELIEVES THAT IRANIAN COUNTERCLAIMS LACK ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A MERE STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT WILL SUFFICE. IF WE AR TO MOVE THE MATTER OF OUR CLAIMS TO THE POINT OF COLLECTION OF THE DEBT, WE URGE THAT UNDERSECRETARY BE AUTHORIZED TO REPLY TO ANSARY (ASSUMING HE BRINGS
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UP IRANIAN COUNTERCLAIMS) ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

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A. THAT WHILE OUR INITIAL EXAMINATION OF THE
IRANIAN COUNTERCLAIM LEADS US TO THE VIEW THAT THE
IRANIAN CASE IS A WEAK ONE, NONETHELESS WE ARE PRE-
PARED TO EXAMINE THE IRANIAN CASE IN GREATER DETAIL;

B. THAT WHEN OUR FINAL EXAMINATION IS COMPLETE,
WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND A TEAM (PERHAPS A TWO-
MEN TEAM) TO TEHRAN TO REVIEW THE IRANIAN COUNTERCLAIMS;

C. SIMULTANEOULY WITH THE SENDING OF THIS TEAM,
WE WOULD ALSO SEND A SECOND TEAM TO EXAMINE AND DISCUSS,
JOINTLY WITH GOI REPRESENTATIVES, THE MATTER OF IRAN'S
LEND LEASE/SURPLUS PROPERTY DEBT TO THE US.

D. THAT THESE SIMULTANEOUS DISCUSSIONS BY THE
TWO TEAMS IN TEHRAN OUGHT TO BEGIN IN THE MONTH OF MAY.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOI HAS EXPENDED SOME EFFORT
IN PUTTING TOGETHER ITS CASE, ALBEIT A WEAK ONE, AND
THAT AT A MINIMUM GOI WOULD EXPECT A REASONED AND THOUGHTFUL
EXPLANATION FROM OUR SIDE AS TO WHY WE BELIEVE THEIR
CASE IS DEFICIENT. WE ARE UNABLE TO JUDGE AT THIS
TIME JUST HOW FAR THE GOI WILL PERSEVERE IN PRESSING
ITS COUNTERCLAIMS, BUT AT LEAST THE SCENARIO SUGGESTED
IN PARA 1 ABOVE HAS THE MERIT OF MOVING ALONG QUESTION
OF OUR CLAIM.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S CONCURREANCE IN THE
FOREGOIN BY CAABLE, REPEATED PARIS FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY.
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